

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Regular Meeting

June 12, 1958
10:00 A.M.

Council Chamber, City Hall

The meeting was called to order with Mayor Miller presiding.

Roll call:

Present: Councilmen Long, Palmer, Pearson, White, Mayor Miller
Absent: None

Present also: Reuben Rountree, Jr., Acting City Manager; Doren R. Eskew, City Attorney.

Invocation was delivered by REV. CARLOS PAREDES, First Mexican Baptist Church, 301 East Avenue.

Councilman White moved that the Minutes of the meeting of June 5, 1958, be approved. The motion, seconded by Councilman Long, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Long, Palmer, White, Mayor Miller
Noes: None
Present but not voting: Councilman Pearson (As he was absent on June 5)

MR. JESSE BARTLETT, and a group appeared expressing to the City Council the appreciation of the citizens of South Austin for the liberal attitude taken in the many projects that had been undertaken in South Austin--Oltorf Street project and many others. The latest project is the development of South 1st Street of which the citizens are very proud. He stated the citizens had had some special encouragement and assistance from one member, a resident of South Austin, and an outstanding personality in the community, highly respected by everybody in Austin and Central Texas; and whom they could call on day or night. MR. BARTLETT said that since South 1st was to be such a beautiful street, the citizens would like to have it designated with a name that would give them something to look forward to and that would be a name of distinction. It was unanimous among all those contacted that they could not pick a better name for this street than the name of this member of the City Council, and call the street BEN WHITE BOULEVARD. He requested the passage of the ordinance to formally change the name of South 1st Street to Ben White Boulevard and read the following

petition signed by over 500 citizens:

TO THE PUBLIC

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BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN

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CITY OF AUSTIN

PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF SOUTH FIRST STREET
TO BEN WHITE BOULEVARD

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

WHEREAS, the citizens of South Austin are sincerely interested in the improvement of the residential, commercial and industrial areas of said section of the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, more than 80 per cent of the residents and property owners on South First Street have petitioned the City Council of the City of Austin to widen and pave South First Street; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin, through its City Council, has indicated its willingness and consent to honor the petition aforesaid by the passage of an Ordinance authorizing and directing the widening and paving of South First Street; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of South First Street and South Austin are desirous of promoting the civic improvement of said area by removal of the confusion caused by the fact that the City of Austin has three streets designated as West First Street, East First Street and South First Street, respectively; and

WHEREAS, such confusion can be eliminated by the changing of the name of South First Street; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Ben White, a member of the City Council of the City of Austin, is a resident of South Austin, and has for many years worked untiringly as a private citizen and civic leader for the improvement of South Austin, including the widening and paving of South First Street; and

WHEREAS, through his efforts, counsel and advice, and with the full cooperation and assistance of the other members of the City Council of the City of Austin, said project for widening and paving South First Street has been approved by the City Council of the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, it is the sincere desire and wish of the residents and property owners of South First Street and South Austin, that the Honorable Ben White be recognized and honored for his faithful and untiring service to the citizens of South Austin; and

WHEREAS, the changing of the name of South First Street to BEN WHITE BOULEVARD would be an appropriate and well-earned honor to bestow upon this Honorable Citizen and Member of the City Council of the City of Austin.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned residents, property owners and citizens of South Austin respectfully petition the City Council of the City of Austin to change the name of SOUTH FIRST STREET TO BEN WHITE BOULEVARD, by the passage of a City Ordinance effecting such change of name forthwith, as

provided by law.

Respectfully submitted to the City Council of the City of Austin, this the 12th day of June, 1958.

It was suggested that the street be called an avenue rather than a boulevard, after discussing the definitions of each. The Council then, by rising vote, unanimously named South 1st Street BEN WHITE AVENUE, and asked that a resolution be brought in next week. This was by 4 to 0 vote, Councilman White present but not voting. Councilman White expressed appreciation to the citizens and to his colleagues on the Council for this honor.

MR. WELDON STEWART, owner of the 1200 block on South Congress, appeared before the Council regarding the concrete channeling markers on South Congress, stating they were dangerous, and wasteful. He thought at other places in the City, 19th and Lamar, and Duval and San Jacinto, these strips were all right as a means of controlling the traffic, but not on South Congress. He stated this curbing cost money, took a lot of time, and they lost the value of their property and were loosing parking spaces, which were inadequate already. Mr. Stewart contended that these curbs were a hazard and asked the Council to see that they were taken out immediately, and that the buttons at Monroe and South Congress be removed. MR. KLAPPROTH pointed out the advantages of the curbs in the movement of traffic and for safety purposes. MR. BILL HILL, Sheraton Terrace, had no complaints about the buttons in the street, but he requested that the left-turn signal timing be extended a few more seconds. He also did not want the concrete islands constructed. The operator of the Gulf Filling Station in this area asked that the curbs be removed, as it was the trend all over the country to remove obstructions like these. The Manager of the Sheraton asked that the stops at East Live Oak be taken out and that no more go in. The Traffic Engineer explained proposals for left turn signals to be installed. The Mayor stated that when the complaint had first come in, orders had been issued to stop the work until further study; and that the Council would go look at this situation on South Congress this afternoon with the Traffic Engineer and Acting City Manager. The Mayor said that the Council would probably have to formulate a rule that no major traffic controls be put in before the plans were submitted to the Council.

REV. RICHARD K. HEACOCK, Methodist District Superintendent of the Austin District, appeared before the Council concerning the taxes assessed against the District parsonage, which had been moved from 1410 Preston to 4012 Crescent Drive. MR. EMIL HALM, Trustee, had asked for exemption, but it had not been granted. The matter was referred to the City Attorney to check.

MR. MOTON CROCKETT, JR., appeared in behalf of the Junior Chamber of Commerce to request permission to have the pedal boats in Barton Creek again this season, stating the profits that are made are to be spent for some project in the park. After discussion, Councilman Palmer moved that they grant the permission to continue, on the same proposition, with proper insurance and clearance with the City Manager. The motion, seconded by Councilman Long,

carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Long, Palmer, Pearson, White, Mayor Miller
Noes: None

Mayor Miller requested that when the swimming pools throughout the City are being cleaned, that somebody be stationed at the open grates to prevent any accidents; that hinges be placed on all of the grates and that they cannot be taken up except by an authorized person who has the key.

Discussion of a wrestling project was held. The Mayor listed some requirements--that the money must be paid before the performance, and that it must be in cash--no credit. The amount of insurance was discussed and it was informally decided that the amount should be \$100-200,000. This was to apply to the Junior Chamber of Commerce for the 4th of July celebration also.

MR. BILL COOPWOOD, Austin Real Estate Board, asked permission to hang a banner across Congress Avenue for the Texas Real Estate Association who will have its convention here on June 18, 19, & 20. He asked that it be hung across Congress at 7th Street. The Council informally agreed to this permission.

The Council took up the matter of setting a charge for the hanging of these banners. Councilman Long moved that after July 1, 1958, that the City start assessing \$35.00 for costs of putting up banners after permission is granted, as a new policy, to help pay the expense. The motion, seconded by Councilman Palmer, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Long, Palmer, Pearson, White, Mayor Miller
Noes: None

MR. O. B. MCKOWN appeared before the Council, stating contracts had been made recently for paving of 106 blocks of paving. On the April 29th contracts (36 blocks, 16 units) only nine units had been cleared for utilities, since approximately the 10th of May, and they had not been cleared in any sequence of work where he could go in one area and complete it. He said if the units would be cleared in the order he gave them, the work would go on a lot faster, and he asked the Council to give some help in getting these various utilities cleared, as he was being held up. The Acting City Manager reported on the delay which was due to all efforts being made to get Cameron Road and 35th Street ready, plus some bad weather in May. With those two streets out of the way and good weather, clearing the other streets would move along faster. The Mayor suggested if the city forces were not able to keep up, that the utility work be done on contract, so as to get the paving moving along. He did not think the utility work could be done on any specific sequence, however. Mr. McKown suggested holding up awarding of the contracts until the utility work was done. The City Attorney reported on instructions left by the City Manager, that if not only the crews actually getting the utility work done but the engineering crews were not able to get the work out that both the utility work and engineering work be let out on contract; that nothing stand in the way of getting the work done. It was anticipated that within the next week or two that a lot will be accomplished in this matter.

The Acting City Manager explained the advantages of the assessment date being set 90 days after the passage of the ordinance. He reported on two utility coordinating meetings with representatives from the telephone and gas companies as well as the city's groups. In the paving of the streets under consideration today, this group cleared all of these streets on which there were no major utility works to be done. On one, (Rosewood from 11th to Hargrave) there was some major work to be done which was not scheduled this year, and that street was pulled out of this group. He believed within the next week, quite a few streets out of the four contracts could be turned over to Mr. McKown.

In line with the utility work and the delay in paving, the Mayor requested that the work through the Butler lease be started--the removal of the transmission line, the oil tank, and the brick which Mr. McKown reported was still there and that the paving proceed on this river road.

Councilman Long inquired about the plans for Manor Road, five blocks east of East Avenue. The Acting City Manager reported this was planned to be ready when the Terminal Building at the Airport was completed in 1960.

Mayor Miller reported the need for a curb on the side of the old Country Club site. He also reported on the bad condition of the road leading to Laguna Gloria and that section.

Councilman Long inquired about the paving of Denson Drive and Gonzales Street, as they were by the schools and should be paved during the summer months. The Acting City Manager gave a report on the paving of several other streets that ran by the Schools--Stark, Alameda, Mariposo, and the two mentioned--Denson Drive and Gonzales.

Mayor Miller introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE NECESSITY FOR AND ORDERING THE PAVING AND IMPROVEMENT OF PORTIONS OF CERTAIN STREETS IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUCH WORK, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, DIRECTING THE PREPARATION OF ESTIMATES, INVOKING THE ALTERNATE PROCEDURE PROVIDED BY ARTICLE I, SECTION 5 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN AND CHAPTER 106 OF THE ACTS OF THE FIRST CALLED SESSION OF THE 40TH LEGISLATURE OF TEXAS, DETERMINING THAT THE COST OF SUCH IMPROVEMENTS SHALL BE PAID BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN, PROVIDING A METHOD OF REIMBURSING THE CITY OF AUSTIN FOR A PORTION OF SUCH COSTS BY ASSESSMENT OF A PORTION OF SUCH COST AGAINST THE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO SUCH STREETS OR PORTIONS THEREOF TO BE IMPROVED, AND FOR THE FIXING OF A LIEN TO SECURE PAYMENT OF SUCH ASSESSMENTS, STATING THE TIME AND MANNER PROPOSED FOR PAYMENT OF ALL SUCH COSTS, DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO CAUSE A NOTICE OF THE ENACTMENT OF THIS ORDINANCE TO BE FILED IN THE MORTGAGE OR DEED OF TRUST RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

The ordinance was read the first time and Councilman Long moved that the rule be suspended and the ordinance passed to its second reading. The motion, seconded by Councilman Palmer, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Long, Palmer, Pearson, White, Mayor Miller
Noes: None

The ordinance was read the second time and Councilman Long moved that the rule be suspended and the ordinance passed to its third reading. The motion, seconded by Councilman Palmer, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Long, Palmer, Pearson, White, Mayor Miller
Noes: None

The ordinance was read the third time and Councilman Long moved that the ordinance be finally passed. The motion, seconded by Councilman Palmer, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Long, Palmer, Pearson, White, Mayor Miller
Noes: None

The Mayor announced that the ordinance had been finally passed.

Councilman Palmer offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

(RESOLUTION)

WHEREAS, bids were received by the City of Austin on April 30, 1958, for the furnishing of Police uniforms; and,

WHEREAS, the total bid of Lorey's Sales and Service in the sum of \$5,998.66 was the lowest and best bid therefor, and the acceptance of such bid has been recommended by the Purchasing Agent of the City of Austin, and by the City Manager; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the total bid of Lorey's Sales and Service in the sum of \$5,998.66 be and the same is hereby accepted, and the City Manager of the City of Austin is hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract on behalf of the City of Austin with Lorey's Sales and Service.

The motion, seconded by Councilman Long, carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Councilmen Long, Palmer, Pearson, White, Mayor Miller
Noes: None

The Acting City Manager submitted the request of Trueman O'Quinn, Chairman of the Travis County Democratic Executive Committee, for use of certain buildings for the Primary Election. Councilman Long moved that permission be granted for the use of the following buildings for the Primary Election on Saturday, July 26th:

Zavala Recreation Department Building
Doris Miller Auditorium
Govalle Fire Station, 829 Airport Boulevard
Airport Boulevard Fire Station, 4305 Airport Boulevard
North Austin Fire Station, 3000 Block Guadalupe


The motion, seconded by Councilman Pearson, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Long, Palmer, Pearson, White, Mayor Miller

Noes: None

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 1:10 P.M.,
subject to the call of the Mayor.

APPROVED


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk